



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2019

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: December 17, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **December 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A on the first floor.

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the November 19, 2019 AAC meeting will be available at the meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site. I will bring copies of the minutes, agenda, and other attachments.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
December 17, 2019 Revised Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions: Holiday Celebration!
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from November 19, 2019.
3. The Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC Study and Final report will be presented to the Montgomery County Planning Board on December 19, 2019.
4. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot Phase II along Sugarland Road and Montevideo Road is being installed. The system will be activated. The Weitzer family will be able to hook up to the Comcast Broadband since their neighbors have finally signed off on the Comcast Easement. <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html>
5. The University of Maryland Extension made a job offer regarding the David Gordon's 4-H Livestock position. The new employee Santana Mays started on December 9, 2019.
6. Elrich Administration has proposed a Comprehensive Tree Trimming effort to bring the farming rustic road users and the rustic roads supporters together to agree on acceptable tree trimming standards. There is a site visit scheduled for December 19, 2019 at 2:00. The OAG, AAC and MAP will be represented.
7. Proposed State Legislation-State Bill Hearings December 2, 2019. I want to thank Michael Jamison for testifying on behalf of MAP on the MC 6-20 Bill for the use of rifles with Deer Management Permits. *Please see the attached letters from the AAC.*
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC6-20.pdf> - proposal to add rifles as acceptable firearms in Montgomery County while hunting with a deer management permit. Please note that several farmers have expressed safety concerns surrounding the use of rifles in the County.
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC7-20stored10-29-19.pdf> - proposal to change the County ag transfer tax law, would direct the collections to be used for ag preservation and programs that support agriculture.
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/2020/documents/MC26-20.pdf> - Adding Montgomery County to the 50 and under club for ag tourism venue capacity.

These are just the ones currently listed on the Montgomery County Delegation website, there could always be more proposed bills.
<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/>
8. Bill 34-19 Taxation-Development Impact Taxes-Affordable Housing Impact Fairness. The Public Hearing was December 3, 2019. The Office of Agriculture, AAC and MAP provided comments in opposition to this bill on the merits of how affordable and workforce housing policies have deemphasized the need and demand for both TDRs for receiving area projects and demand for Building Lot Termination-BLTs. *Please see the*

attached letter from the AAC.

https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/cellims/DownloadFilePage?FileName=2632_19749_Bill_34-19_Introduction_20191015.pdf

9. Follow up discussion on ZTA 19-07 Telecommunications Towers-Limited Land Use. The Public Hearing was November 19, 2019. Please note that the phone tower in front of Homestead Farm is not part of the 5G network. This phone tower is a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) originally installed by NextG to increase the cellular coverage in the area. The application was processed in 2007. The original DAS design was for Sprint-Nextel to attach antennas to transmit signals to serve users along the roadways and an area within approximately one-quarter mile around each site. The dual band Sprint-Nextel antennas are attached atop poles owned by either PEPCO or Verizon.
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2019/ZTA%2019-07.pdf>
10. Proposal to allow Community Solar in the Agricultural Reserve-Please note this is being driven by the State of Maryland Climate Change Initiatives.
11. Follow up from the Farmer Round Table with US Senator Ben Cardin-Friday December 6, 2019.
12. Follow up from the Legislative Luncheon yesterday at Seneca Ayr Farm.
13. Ag Reserve Postcard Survey: All residents in the Agricultural Reserve will receive a postcard survey pertaining to high speed Broadband. Once you receive this postcard please make sure that you fill it out and send it back in.
14. Next meeting of the AAC-January 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors-December 13, 2019
Montgomery County Food Farmers & MCPS Roundtable Discussion-December 13, 2019
Montgomery County Table Food Farmers Forum-December 18, 2019
Agritourism Report Briefing Montgomery County Planning Board-December 19, 2019
Rural and Rustic Roads Tree Trimming Field Inspection-December 19, 2019
MAP and OAG meeting to discuss Thrive 2050-December 20, 2019
Council of Governments-Regional Agricultural Work Group-December 20, 2019